

# Minor-Key Chords: Natural or Raised Seventh?

**Natural minor** uses the key signature. **Harmonic minor** raises only degree 7 by a half step: A minor G→G♯; E minor D→D♯; D minor C→C♯. Major: III; minor: i; diminished: ii°; augmented: III+. Use uppercase for major or augmented triads and lowercase for minor or diminished triads. Here VII means the unraised seventh; vii° uses the raised seventh.

## 1 · LABEL 12 TRIADS

Write a Roman numeral, including quality. Every triad is in root position. Use the source printed above each chord; the key signature still applies.

|                                           |                                            |                                           |                                             |                                            |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 · A natural<br><br><input type="text"/> | 2 · A harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/> | 3 · A natural<br><br><input type="text"/> | 4 · A harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/>  | 5 · E natural<br><br><input type="text"/>  | 6 · E harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/>  |
| 7 · E natural<br><br><input type="text"/> | 8 · E harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/> | 9 · D natural<br><br><input type="text"/> | 10 · D harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/> | 11 · D natural<br><br><input type="text"/> | 12 · D harmonic<br><br><input type="text"/> |

## 2 · COMPARE THE THREE CHANGES IN A MINOR

Raise G to G♯. Keep the other notes. Write the new spelling and numeral.

| Natural-minor triad | Harmonic-minor spelling | Numeral |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| III: C-E-G          | -----                   | -----   |
| v: E-G-B            | -----                   | -----   |
| VII: G-B-D          | -----                   | -----   |

## 3 · BUILD V AND vii° WITH THE RAISED SEVENTH

Use harmonic minor. Stack three whole notes in thirds. Include the accidental that raises degree 7. Any correct root-position octave is accepted.

|                     |                        |                     |                        |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 13. V · A minor<br> | 14. vii° · A minor<br> | 15. V · E minor<br> | 16. vii° · E minor<br> | 17. V · D minor<br> | 18. vii° · D minor<br> |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|

### Try it

After writing, listen to Items 1–4. Each plays two sets of seven triads, built on degrees 1–7. Each set has seven chords, one per measure. A silent measure separates the sets. Name the first form before opening its check track. Which three triads change when scale degree 7 is raised? This collection exercise does not require III+ in every minor-key piece.

[tissimo.co/worksheets/chords-of-the-minor-key](https://tissimo.co/worksheets/chords-of-the-minor-key) · Piano model, quarter = 100



Answers · flip the page

Part 1: 1. I! A-C-E, 2. III+ C-E-G♯, 3. VII G-B-D, 4. V E-G-B, 5. !!° F♯-A-C, 6. vii° D♯-F♯-A, 7. v B-D-F, 8. iv A-C-E, 9. VI B♭-D-F, 10. V A-C♯-E, 11. III F-A-C, 12. vii° C♯-E-G. Part 2: III → III+ (augmented), v → V: E-G-B (major), VII → vii°: G♯-B-D (diminished).

Part 3: 13. E-G-B, 14. G♯-B-D, 15. B-D-F, 16. D♯-F♯-A, 17. A-C♯-E, 18. C♯-E-G.

13. V · A  
14. vii° · A  
15. V · E  
16. vii° · E  
17. V · D  
18. vii° · D

Audio first → second: 1: natural → harmonic; 2: harmonic → natural; 3: natural → harmonic; 4: harmonic → natural. Try it: the triads rooted on degrees 3, 5, and 7 change; only scale degree 7 is raised.